



Prevention Services Questions

1. What is the 5-Year Prevention Plan?

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) requires states to submit a 5-Year Prevention Plan to the federal Children’s Bureau outlining the evidence-based services (Title IV-E Prevention Clearinghouse Services) that will be implemented in the state, and how these programs and practices will be evaluated and monitored. States can amend their 5-Year Prevention Plan at any time as evidenced-based services are added to the Title IV-E Prevention Clearinghouse. Evidence-based programs funded through non-federal dollars may be eligible for IV-E reimbursement only if listed in the 5-Year Prevention Plan.

More information on the Title IV-E Clearinghouse can be found here:

<https://preventionservices.abtsites.com/>

2. Is the Wisconsin 5-Year Prevention Plan available to review?

Wisconsin’s 5-Year Prevention Plan and 1-Page Summary will be available on the Department of Children and Families (DCF) [FFPSA website](#) following its submission to the Children’s Bureau.

3. What Title IV-E Prevention Clearinghouse Services will be included in the Wisconsin’s 5-Year Prevention Plan?

Wisconsin selected three Title IV-E Prevention Clearinghouse Services:

- Healthy Families America
- Parents as Teachers
- Nurse-Family Partnership

Further information about these services can be found on the DCF website:

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/homevisiting>

4. Why were the three Home Visiting services selected for inclusion?

- All three services are considered “well-supported” meaning they have the highest degree of evidentiary support on the Title IV-E Clearinghouse.



- All three programs have existing infrastructure in the state and are represented in every region of the state.
- While most home visiting funds are federal, there is a small state investment in home visiting on which DCF may be able to generate federal IV-E reimbursement.
- Initial research also suggests an important overlap between families traditionally served by home visiting programs and those served by the Child Welfare system.

5. Are there additional Title IV-E Clearinghouse Services that are being considered for future inclusion and implementation?

Several evidence-based services continue to be evaluated for future inclusion, including Homebuilders, Motivational Interviewing, and others.

The Title IV-E Prevention Clearinghouse continues to be updated and DCF is monitoring the approval of programs on the Title IV-E Prevention Clearinghouse. DCF plans to adjust the 5-Year Prevention Plan as additional services are approved that may meet the needs of children/families in Wisconsin and should additional funding become available.

6. Why are additional Title IV-E Clearinghouse services not available currently?

There is no federal funding (e.g. grant programs or other direct funding) provided for ongoing service delivery. States can claim federal reimbursement when families receive Title IV-E Prevention services listed in the state's 5-Year Plan, and when those services are funded through non-federal dollars.

During the last state biennial budget process, DCF requested additional General-Purpose Revenue (GPR) funds to support in-home evidence-based services but did not receive this. Due to the lack of both federal and state funding, implementation has focused on supporting existing infrastructure and in-home planning.

DCF intends to request additional funding to support Title IV-E Clearinghouse Services in future budgets.



7. Will agencies be required to utilize Title IV-E Clearinghouse Services?

No, local child welfare agencies will not be required to shift their current programming to one of the three Title IV-E Clearinghouse Services.

- DCF is continuing to explore ways to support evidence-based services and other child welfare innovations across the state without additional funding.
- Local child welfare agencies are encouraged to have conversations with their local stakeholders about ways to support children and families in home.
- Due to variations across the state, the most pressing need for some communities may not be evidenced-based services but may be related to more economic or concrete needs, such as housing, childcare, or others.

8. Will agencies receive any reimbursement or financial incentive for using Title IV-E Clearinghouse Services?

No, using Title IV-E Clearinghouse Services will not mean additional funding to the referring agency. Selecting an appropriate service for a family continues to be based on the assessment of a family's needs and the ability of the service to meet those needs.

9. What is changing on October 1, 2021 related to Prevention and Title IV-E Clearinghouse Services?

If your agency currently uses any of the above programs, you may continue to refer eligible families. In jurisdictions where the selected Title IV-E Clearinghouse Services are already used, DCF will begin to collect data related to how those services impact outcomes for children.

To easily capture this service delivery information, minor documentation changes on the Case and Permanency Plan will be taking effect on 9/29/2021. These changes will make it easier to identify if one of the above selected Title IV-E Prevention Clearinghouse Services was delivered. A technical training video is available [here](#). Understanding this data will help DCF plan for future implementation and service needs.



In addition, to meet the needs of more families in-home, agencies are encouraged to consider the entire [constellation of services available](#). Selection of services should continue to be driven by the assessment of needs, in partnership with families. Where the above services are not available, or not appropriate for the family, agencies are encouraged to consider creative strategies in line with the goal to dramatically reduce the number of children served in out-of-home care.

DCF is continuing ongoing efforts to improve the service array and minimize policy barriers to serving children in-home. Further training and information about Title IV-E Prevention Clearinghouse Services, including how to refer and access these services, will be shared in the future as continued FFPSA rollout occurs.

10. What is “candidacy” and how is this defined in Wisconsin?

FFPSA defines candidacy (or a candidate for foster care) as a “child who is identified in a prevention plan as being at **imminent risk** of entering foster care but who can remain safely at home”.

In Wisconsin, children identified as candidates for foster care are children who meet one or more of these criteria:

- Children who are being served by the local child welfare agency where it has been determined that there are existing danger threats that can be mitigated by the provision of services aimed at keeping children safe in-home and ameliorating the conditions that render children to be unsafe.
- Children who have been returned to their parent’s care, and services remain necessary to prevent re-entry.
- Children or youth engaged in the youth justice system with identified risk factors that are determined as part of the standardized assessment process.
- Children or youth engaged in the youth justice system who are returning to their parent’s care post-removal, and services remain necessary to prevent re-entry.



11. What impact does this candidacy definition have on direct practice with families?

Because Wisconsin has chosen to define candidacy within the existing child welfare population, child welfare agencies will continue to serve the same children and families.

Wisconsin's strategic shift is changing where children and families are served, from out-of-home to in-home. The needs of children and families remain complex and serving these same families in-home will require continued innovation and resource investment at the state and local level.

12. I am a youth justice worker, how is FFPSA and candidacy related to my work?

Data shows families and youth often experience overlap between the Child Welfare and Youth Justice Systems. Of Wisconsin youth referred to Youth Justice services in 2019:

- About 2/3 had at least one previous Child Protective Services Report screened-in
- About 1/6 had experienced at least one out-of-home care placement episode

Due to this, Wisconsin included children and adolescents served by the youth justice system in the definition of candidacy. Wisconsin is uniquely poised to serve this population, as Wisconsin's Division of Safety and Permanence oversees both the child protection and youth justice systems.

13. Is there work being done towards building better community services that are culturally relevant to our families?

DCF recognizes that due to variations across the state, the most pressing need for some communities may not be Title IV-E Clearinghouse Services but may be related to more concrete needs or locally based, culturally relevant services led by community partners.

DCF encourages local child welfare agencies to consider ways to align existing funding to better support the unique needs of children and families in their communities, strengthening culturally relevant services for families.



DCF currently provides some flexible funding opportunities for local child welfare agencies to focus their services and supports based on unique community needs.